

2 Timothy -- The Last Words of the Apostle Paul

First Presbyterian Church of Bakersfield
2026 Feb-Mar Sermon Series Study Guide

2 Timothy 2:22-3:9 (NIV)

2:22 Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 23 Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. 24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 25 Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

3:1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

6 They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, 7 always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth. 8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these teachers oppose the truth. They are men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. 9 But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.

Faithful or False

OPEN

- What was the dumbest thing you did as a kid?
- Read Paul's words to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:22-3:9.

STUDY

- Make a list of the things Paul instructs Timothy to do and not to do in 2:22-26.
- What are some reasons Paul gives for these particular instructions?
- Put yourself in Timothy's shoes. How might some of these instructions be difficult for you?
- Make another list of the negative behaviors & attitudes we see in 3:1-9.
- When will these "terrible times" happen and how is Timothy to respond?
- Discuss how we see this kind of behavior today and who the people committing these terrible acts are. If these people are non-believers, how do we "have nothing to do with" them if they are the very ones we've been called to love and share our faith with, as Jesus did in Matt 9:9-13? Or are these religious people distorting the gospel? If so, how do you see that?
- In what ways have you been guilty of practicing in "a form of godliness but denying its power"? How might that practice harm you and others?
- Is there any instruction in this passage that can help you overcome that practice?

PRAY

- Ask God for wisdom in how to be a person who loves Him and others faithfully and without falsehood!